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Department of State

INCOMING TELEGRAM

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FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 666

UNCLAS SAN SALVADOR 5886

H PASS

E. O. 12065/ N/A
TAGS: CASC (SULLIVAN, JOHN J.)
SUBJECT: W/W-JOHN J. SULLIVAN VISA CONGRESSIONAL CORRESPONDENCE

REF: YOUR RECENT CABLE

TO: HONORABLE BENJAMIN A. GILMAN
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20515

1. I REFER TO YOUR INTEREST IN THE CASE OF JOHN J. SULLIVAN, THE AMERICAN JOURNALIST WHO DISAPPEARED IN EL SALVADOR ON DECEMBER 28, 1980.

2. WE HAVE BEEN CONDUCTING AN ONGOING INVESTIGATION INTO THE SULLIVAN DISAPPEARANCE SINCE JANUARY 1981, WITH THE COMPLETE COOPERATION OF THE SALVADORAN AUTHORITIES.

3. OUR INVESTIGATION HAS INCLUDED THE EXHUMATION OF 3 BODIES, THE EXAMINATION OF DEATH RECORDS FROM A NUMBER OF TOWNS, CHECKING ON NUMEROUS TELEPHONE TIPS AND LETTERS, AS WELL AS A NATIONWIDE GOVERNMENT SPONSORED ALERT. UNFORTUNATELY TO DATE ALL EFFORTS HAVE FAILED TO PRODUCE ANY USEFUL INFORMATION.

4. AS FAR AS WE ARE AWARE THE FDR MEMBERS DID NOT PROVIDE ANY SPECIFIC INFORMATION ABOUT SULLIVAN'S WHEREABOUTS IN THEIR RECENT ALLEGATIONS. THEREFORE, IT WILL BE VERY DIFFICULT TO FOLLOW UP ON THEIR STATEMENTS. WE DID LEARN FROM SOURCES THAT THE FDR MEMBERS CLAIMED THAT SULLIVAN WAS BEING HELD BY THE TREASURY POLICE. WE HAVE RECIEVED A NUMBER OF LETTERS ALLEGING THIS AND ALL THESE ALLEGATIONS HAVE BEEN INVESTIGATED FULLY AND HAVE FOUND TO BE WITHOUT BASIS. I ASSURE YOU ANY DETAILS WE ARE PROVIDED CONCERNING JOHN J. SULLIVAN WHEREABOUTS WILL BE INVESTIGATED THROUGHLY JUST AS WE HAVE INVESTIGATED ALL OTHER CLUES OR TIPS.

DEANE R. HINTON
AMBASSADOR
HINTON

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY [signature] DATE MAR 15 1984
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TS AUTH. REASON(S)
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